Tadepalligudem on National Highway No. 5 in Andhra Pradesh has been received and will be decided according to the instant policy.

Rural Telephone Projects

*93. DR. Y. LAKSHMIPRASAD: SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rural telephone projects proposed to be executed by March, 1997; and

(b) the approximate expenditure thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Details of rural Telephone projects and approximate expenditure thereof is as given in the enclosed statement, *{see* below)

Statement

Details of Rural Telephone Projects for 1996-97

SI. No.	Name of Circle	No. of Telephone exchanges planned	VPDs	Approx. Expenditure (in Crores)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	300	4000	83.2
2.	Andaman & Nicobar	4	201	1.7
3.	Assam	41	500	83.8
4.	Bihar	266	6500	79.2
5.	Gujarat	208	4000	117.5
6.	Haryana	235	357	108.0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	133	1000	65.0
8.	J&K	43	600	1.8
9.	Karnataka	210	3000	111.3
10.	Kerala	473	0	78.0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	261	9850	124.4
12.	Maharashtra	190	5000	71.6
13.	North East	57	1000	74.7
14.	Orissa	70	5000	89.7
15.	Punjab	50	4750	10.8
16.	Rajasthan	80	6500	57.0
17.	Tamimadu	150	3200	89.9
18.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	211	9000	33.6
19.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	256	6000	97.5
20.	West Bengal	184	5000	43.4

Reviewing the Functioning of the Ministry of External Affairs

*94. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFAF1RS be plaesed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is not only the recent Security Council fiasco but on several other issues like handling of Iran's initiative on Afgan crisis, our foreign offices have been found to be out of sorts; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review the functioning of the Ministry of External Affairs in view of the above setbacks and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) Significant recent developments in the international sphere include events in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, the need to reactivate the Non-Aligned Movement, to srengthen South-South

Cooperation, and to project oar' principled stand on nuclear disarmament issues, including the CTBT. India's loss in the elections to the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council may be seen in this context. In the prevailing situation, the Ministry of External Affairs remains actively engaged in the pursuit of our traditional foreign policy goals. India played a leading role at the recent G-15 Summit in Harare and will be soon hosting the SAARC Council of Ministers Meeting. India's effective response to the developments in Afghanistan ensured that it was included among the interested parties which can make a contribution to the resolution of the problem in Afghanistan. India actively participated in the conference in Tehran as well as in the meeting on Afghanistan called by the UN Secretary General recently. As is known, Pakistan had exerted a great deal to dissuade Iran from inviting India. It further went on to cancel a meeting in Peshawar for obivious reason of its, opposition to India's participation.

Government constantly review their foreign policy goals and the instruments available to pursue them, and adjustments are made as and when required.

गुजरात में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग

*95. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात में अब तक निर्मित राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की संख्या और उनकी कुल लंबाई का प्रतिशत कितना-कितना है,

(ख) इस संबंध में जिला-वार ब्यौरा क्या है,

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि अन्य राज्यों की तुलना में उक्त राज्य में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्गों की संख्या कम है,

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण है, और

(ङ) इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं/उठाए जाने का विचार है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री (श्री टी॰जी॰ वेंकटरामन): (क) और (ख) राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग 8, 8क, 8ख, 8ग, 14, और 15 तथा राष्ट्रीय एक्सप्रेस मार्ग सं॰ 1, जो गुजरात राज्य से गुजरते हैं, की कुल लंबाई 1631 कि॰मी॰ है और यह लंबाई कुल राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग नेटवर्क का लगभग 4.75% है।

(ग) से (ङ) चूंकि राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग मुख्य मार्ग हैं जो देश के समग्र हित के काम आते हैं, अतः किसी राज्य विशेष में उनकी लंबाई/संख्या की दूसरे राज्य से तुलना करना उचित नहीं है।

Telephopnc Exchanges Converted into electronic Exchanges in Punjab

*96. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such telephone exchanges in Punjab which have not yet been converted into electronic exchanges so far;

(b) by when these are likely to be converted into electronic exchanges; and

(c) the names of places where Government have chalked out a plan to instal new electronic exchanges during the year 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) 1. Albert Road (Amritsar)

2. Bhatinda.

3. Patiala.

4. Chandigarh Sector. 17.

5. Bharat Nagar Chowk (Ludhiana) Unit-I & II.

6. Mandi Gobindgarh (Patiala).

(b) All the exchnges in Punjab Telecom Circle are likely to be converted into electronic exchanges by 1997-98, except the one at Mandi Gobindgarh, which has been recently installed.